

Board of Police Commission
Regular Meeting
Chairman Paul D. Abercrombie Police Commission and Training Room 2nd Floor
October 25, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Chairman Joseph D'Errico called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Joseph F. D'Errico, Commissioners Larry Lazaroff, Marc Calafiore, Walt Spader and David Monz; Deputy Chief Jonathan Mulhern and Chief Thomas McLoughlin

Others Present: Town Attorney Jennifer Coppola

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the September 27, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Spader made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Calafiore seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for September 2016. The motion to approve the monthly reports was made by Commissioner Spader; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Lazaroff. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence this month.

Chairman's Report

Chairman D'Errico spoke to those present stating that he has asked Chief to arrange for a green light to be installed fronting police headquarters. Mr. D'Errico explained that a red light is in place at Fire Headquarters, and he requests that a green light be put in place for people to identify where the police department is located.

Chairman D'Errico said he is frustrated with pedestrians not utilizing the sidewalks on Pool Road.

Chairman D'Errico had nothing else to report except to state that he is waiting for the results of the referendum vote this evening for the refurbishing of the Police Department.

Commissioner Spader mentioned that the Rachel's Challenge presentation; part of a new education program that was designed to help middle school students with the prevention of drug and alcohol use and other issues that today's youth faces was held last month at the Middle School and went very well. Chairman D'Errico thanked Commissioner Lazaroff for his participation in organizing the program.

Chiefs Report:

Chief reminded everyone that Halloween is next Monday and asks everyone to drive with caution and be aware of extra pedestrian traffic. Chief also asked that parents dress their children in bright colors, limit accessories and use flashlights or reflective items to appear more visible. Chief stated that he wants everyone to be safe and enjoy Halloween.

Budget:

Chief McLoughlin explained that the budget is right where it is expected to be and mentioned there may be a slight uptick in overtime due to department wide training, leaf removal, paving of roads and outside duty for the street light bulb replacement. Chief explained that the street light project is part of a town initiative and all of the street lights in town will eventually be changed to LED lighting which is brighter and more efficient.

The fiscal year 2017/2018 budget workshop dates have been set and Chief advised the Board if they have any requests for next year's budget to get it to him within the next two to three weeks in writing with justification as it is due to the Finance Department on December 5th.

Support Services/Traffic:

A letter was received from a resident of Patten road asking for signage to advise motorists of children walking in the area. Chief provided photos of the area to the Board, and after a brief discussion, Commissioner Monz made the motion to place a "Slow Children" sign on one side of Patten Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Spader. All were in favor. Further, Chief explained that there is only one speed limit sign on Patten Road and suggested to the Board that a speed limit sign also be posted on top of the slow child sign. After brief discussion the Board agreed to add an additional speed limit sign to be placed above the slow children sign.

Chief said he is waiting for the official written confirmation from the state DOT for the placement of "No Thru Trucks" signage on Pool Road and Blakeslee Avenue.

Planning and Zoning Submissions

Chief received several Planning and Zoning requests this month, but none that would impact traffic.

- The Town of North Haven to adopt a new road off Defco Park Road that connects to the Pratt and Whitney property. The road is 450' long and if adopted the town will maintain the road. There were no comments from the Board.
- Site plan at 90 State Street. A garage type structure in which the owners of Arts TV are considering buying; contingent on the town allowing them to use the garage for storage. There were no comments from the Board.
- The plans for an additional building at 555 Pool Road were rejected by Planning and Zoning, and as such, the Board had no comment.
- To re-design the handicapped parking layout in the lot of a new storage facility on Washington Avenue. There were no comments from the Board.

With nothing further to report, Chief turned the meeting over to Town Attorney Jennifer Coppola.

Attorney Coppola asked that the agenda for this evenings meeting be amended to add a “Public Comment” section. The motion to amend the agenda was made by Commissioner Spader and seconded by Commissioner Monz. All were in favor.

Attorney Coppola then explained that she was present this evening with regard to a discussion relative to a potential restricted residential parking zone to be added to the town of North Haven parking ordinance at chapter 151. Attorney Coppola provided an outline to all those present.

Items discussed were:

- Why have a restricted residential parking program and what are the goals of the program
- Procedure to be followed to add the program to the existing parking ordinance
- Substance of the ordinance
 - a. eligibility requirements
 - b. procedure and considerations for decision
 - c. who can obtain a permit
 - d. fee schedule and penalty of violation

Several residents spoke on this issue and after a lengthy discussion with no further questions or comments Attorney Coppola concluded by stating that she will revise the draft based on the discussion tonight. At a future meeting, the Board of Police Commission needs to agree, support and be onboard and satisfied with the finalized draft. The Board will then make a recommendation to the First Selectman, who will then recommend it for a town meeting. This ordinance has to be passed by a town meeting

Professional Standards:

The whole Department along with the Hamden and East Haven Police departments recently participated in a mental health and wellness training session.

Uniformed Services/Patrol

Chief explained that the two new black and white Ford Suv Utility Interceptors have been delivered and are waiting for scheduling for the installation of equipment. Chairman D’Errico said he would like all black cruisers in the next budget. Chief explained that we need to maintain a marked fleet of black and white vehicles as it lets people know where the Police are and that they are present. Further he said residents need to know, and want to know that Police are present. Further, Chief explained that it alters people’s behavior when they see a black and white marked police car.

Chief reported that the nighttime larcenies and thefts have subsided a bit.

Investigative Services:

Detectives are making good progress on the rash of spring and summertime burglaries and recently four suspects were identified. DNA testing has become a significant part of the identification of the perpetrators. Chief reported several arrest warrants are pending.

Walter T Berniere Scholarship:

Officer Hannon has requested reimbursement for two college courses.

The motion to approve the scholarship request was made by Commissioner Spader. The motion was seconded by commissioner Lazaroff. All were in favor.

Building and Equipment updates:

Chief McLoughlin announced that he just received word that the referendum held tonight for the Police Department renovations and radio project has passed. Commissioner Spader thanked the residents of North Haven for their support in today's referendum.

Miscellaneous:

The Town Trunk or Treat event is scheduled this Saturday from 5-7p.m. at the high school located at 221 Elm Street. Chief thanked the Police Union for supplying the candy which will be distributed from the trunk of a Police Car by the Police Department clerical staff. Commissioner Spader added an important reminder for parents and attendees of this event stating that it is a closed event, and cars must stay for the entire time for the safety of the children and all those present.

The Prescription take back was successful last Saturday at Fire Headquarters.

The drug drop box in the Police lobby has been very successful. At least 30 lbs. of drugs were emptied this week.

The Body cameras are starting to be delivered. The town will be reimbursed by the State up to 90 % for the first year.

Public Comment:

Kristen Cohen of 118 Buell Street spoke of traffic concerns in the Whitney Ridge area; specifically vehicles speeding through the neighborhoods. Ms. Cohen asked for speed bump placement and also a stop sign at the intersection of Buell and Garfield.

Chairman D'Errico asked Kristen Cohen to send him a written request for a stop sign and he will have the traffic officer look at it and make a recommendation.

Craig Montanarri 99 Garfield spoke of his concerns regarding speeding cars. He also requested speed bumps and placement of a traffic sign that displays the speed of vehicles.

There was nothing for executive session.

With nothing further, Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Spader and seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor. The time was 8:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Lazaroff, Secretary

Minutes by P. Claflin